

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project  
Cerro Grande Fire  
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-003(e)  
Holding Tank**

*Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West, and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning program.*

**PRS History:** PRS 02-003(e) consists of the former location of an 800-liter stainless steel holding tank (Structure 2-62) associated with the Water Boiler Reactor, which was operational from 1944 to 1974. The purpose of the tank was to collect cooling water from the reactor in the event that a breach occurred in one of the cooling coils in the reactor sphere. Radiation levels were not above background when the tank and associated valves were removed in 1986 during decommissioning activities. Soil samples from beneath the tank registered low activity levels; this soil was removed.

PRS 02-003(e) is not listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action. There are no indications of residual risk at the site.

**Issues of Concern:** The area upstream of PRS 02-003(e) burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. There is potential for erosion or scouring at the site. The site does not contain debris that could enter the flood



watercourse. This site does not contain structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

**Accelerated Action Status:** PRS 02-003(e) was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. ER Project personnel completed 3 boreholes and collected 15 samples. Elevated levels of beta and gamma radiation were encountered in one of the boreholes. The nature and extent of contamination at this site has not been determined. The data has not yet been validated or reviewed. Accelerated corrective actions are in process at this site.

**Related Documents:**

"TA-2 Water Boiler Reactor Decommissioning (Phase I)," LANL Report LA-10890-MS, October 1986.

"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.

"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.